



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
PO Box 45040 Olympia, Washington 98504-5040

May 27, 2010

Dear Tribal Leader,

I would like to thank those of you who were able to attend the Tribal Consultation on May 12, 2010 for Phase I, Performance Based Contracting, Second Substitute House Bill 2106. This was my first tribal consultation and I heard your words and take these remarks seriously and in the spirit in which they were given. As I indicated at the conclusion of the consultation meeting, I look forward to receiving any additional comments in writing from you. The comment period ends on June 30, 2010. Please send your comments to me at:

Denise Revels Robinson, Assistant Secretary
Department of Social and Health Services
Children's Administration
Post Office Box 45040
Olympia, WA 98504

I appreciated hearing from the Leaders about the history and the continuing impacts of federal policies, particularly the impact the Boarding School Era and the Adoption Project from the 1950's through the 1970's has had on Indian peoples; the role that religious institutions have had on Indian families; the roles of state legislation and policies, specifically the Regional Support Network, Mental Health reform, have had on accessing services for Indian children and families: and the concern that we remember the lessons we learned as a consequence of these actions.

The examples of how contracts with other entities and the access to services, such as the Regional Support Networks, was beneficial for me to hear. I commit to remember these lessons learned as we develop the Performance Based Contracts.

Your words about our Government-to-Government relationships and the right of Tribes to make decisions regarding your children and families were helpful. I also heard the Tribal concerns about Disproportionality and that we must continue to reduce the disproportionate rates of Indian Children in the state child welfare system.

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We must not overlook the concerns of the Urban Indian organizations advocating for the needs of urban Indians in this process. Their concerns for accountability and questions about whether our energies are going in the right direction reflect the concerns of all present.

For Tribes, child welfare is not just a job, it is your life and the children are your future. I have heard the words, the concerns, the history and the results of this history on Indian children and families.

I want to thank you again for your participation and the words and concerns that you expressed. I know that together we can achieve better outcomes for Indian children and their families.

The minutes of the consultation meeting are attached.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Denise Revels Robinson".

Denise Revels Robinson, Assistant Secretary
Children's Administration

cc: IPAC Delegates
Colleen Cawston, Director, Office of Indian Policy

Attachments